October

A.S XLIX

Meiassis Dragon

THE BARONY OF DRAGONSSPINE

The End of the Campaigns— Battlemoor V the Wappenshaw

Photo by Lady Bree Pye of Caer Galen

News Bites

Greetings to Dragonsspine!

The Herald's office has been busy working with your new Names, Devices, and Badges. There have been submissions, resubmissions, meetings, and report updates. A summary of active items as of September 17, 2014 follows.

April 1 submissions have been decided and are in proofreading:

1. Abigail Mac Naught – Name
2. Adelaisa Bernois – Badge
3. Antoine de Vallier – Name and Device
4. Date Chotaro Motohisa – Alternate Name and Badge
5. Ellisif Hergierrdottir – Name
6. Gianni Sangermano – Name

May 1 resubmission of Isabeau de Bernac's device is being decided by Laurel Sovereign.

Sept 1 submissions starting the process:

1. Alikina filia Elpin – Badge
2. Connor Mac Buchanan of Loch Lomond – Name
3. Cuhelyn of Northanbymbre – Name and Device
4. Rosalynn of Mac Buchanan – Name

Items returned for further work include –

April 1 Hergierr Edvinson (name) and Gianni Sangermano (Device)

July 1 Abigail Mac Naught (device)

I am available for consultation, item submissions, and the only acceptable coloring devices (I have the "Crayola Classics" markers approved by the official heralds).

I will be at the Village Inn (Powers and S. Carefree) on October 7 and 21, and November 4 and 18, and at most times when contacted at combat practice or by email (herald @ dragonsspine.org).

Yours In Service,

Duchess Selene of the Sky,
Scalene Pursuivant

From Their Royal Majesties, Walrick and Cecilia:

Battlemoor is now a fond memory, but We have spent these last weeks locked in a battle over which barony would be declared the Winner of the Wappenshaw. Her Royal Majesty lauded the flaming Harp of Caer Galen while His Royal Majesty praised the heraldic splendor of al-Barran's banner. Her Royal Majesty found Herself singing Caerthe's battlesong while His Royal Majesty found Himself singing "The Ants Come Marching Two by Two…" The Princesses Royal stole Her Royal Majesty's stuffed stone wolf, which was so fluffy, she almost died. It was a mighty battle of wills, but We have finally come to a decision. We wish to recognize the following:

Most Awesome Shire: Aarquelle

Most Heraldic Banner: al-Barran

Overall Wappenshaw Champion: a tie between Caerthe and Caer Galen

Thank you so much to all the groups who participated in the Wappenshaw, and to Mistress Elisee and Sir Robert for sponsoring such an inspiring display!

All of the groups presented amazing heraldic displays and there was ample evidence of the splendor and ambition of the Outlands!

Unto all assembled does Alwyn of Kittisford send greetings!

Once again Monument Academy Charter school is holding its Medieval Day celebration and demo. Dragonsspine has participated in this demo for the past 11 years, and each year the kids have called it the best part of their special event. I would once again ask all who are able to come and support this great educational opportunity!

This year the event is on Friday, October 24th. The main part of our demo runs from 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM, but we would like people there by 10:00 AM to get ready. We really need both heavy weapons and rapier fighters for this part of the demo, to show off their skills for 100 screaming 4th graders.

The entire event runs from 8:00 AM to noon and anyone who wants to be there for the whole thing is more than welcome to help out with the A&S stations or just add atmosphere. Lunch will be served at 11:15 and any who wish to stay for it can partake of the free meal.

The school is in Monument, just off of I-25 exit 161. The address is 1150 Village Ridge Point, Monument, CO (directions can be found here.

If any one is able to help, please contact me at Alwyn@rialto.org , call me at 510-1374, or just show up and help. Thanks to all who can assist!

I remain,

Alwyn

Exeter Riddle #15

Whereas my neck is white, my head
and sides are brown; I move swiftly
and bear a battle-weapon; hair covers my back
and my cheeks as well; two ears tower high
above my eyes. I step on my toes through
the green grass. Grief is ordained for me
if any fierce creature should catch me
in my hole where I have my house and children;
should I stay there with my offspring
after this guest comes knocking
at my door, they are doomed to die.
I must bravely carry my infants
far from our house, save them by flight,
if that creature still follows me.
He advances on his breast. I dare not await him
in my hole . . . that was not a wise plan at all.
I must burrow through the steep hillside
With my two forefeet as fast as I can.
I can save the lives of my loved ones
with ease, once I've guided them out
by a secret way through a hole in the hill.
Then, if it comes to blows and battle,
I feel no fear of this murderous foe.
If he still gives me chase
through that narrow hole I've just made in the hill,
I will not fail to fight him fiercely.
Once I've tunnelled my way to the top,
I will angrily batter my enemy,
That hateful foe from whom I long fled.

Photo by Lady Bree Pye of Caer Galen

Upcoming Events

4 Oct Aarquelle Defender—Aarquelle*#

4 Oct Windkeeps XXX Anniversary—Windkeep

11 Oct Sworded Affair—al-Barran*#

18 Oct Newcomer's Silver and Godl—Unser Hafen#

25 Oct Just Desserts—Caerthe*

25 Oct St. Golias Feast Day—St. Golias

1 Nov Fontaine Toy Box and Baronial Investiture—Fontaine dans Sable*#

1 Nov Danse Macabre—Caer Galen

8 Nov Coronation—Bryngolau*#

15 Nov Day of A&S—al-Barran

15 Nov Toys for Tots—Caer Galen

16 Nov Toys for Tots—al-Barran

22 Nov Dragonsspine Baronial A&S Competition—Dragonsspine#

6 Dec Hunters Feast—Windkeep

13 Dec Caer Galen Midwinter—Caer Galen

20-21 Dec Midwinter and War Practice—al-Barran

3 Jan 12th Night—Barony of Caerthe

17 Jan Viking Vinter Vunderland—Aarquelle

31 Jan—Candlemas—Plattefordham

* Event is on TRM Progress
# Event is on TE Dragonsspine's Progress

Baronial Buisness Meeting Minutes

Date: 9-8-2014

Past Events:

Fall Crown Tournament (Aug 15th – 17th): Was held in Dragonsspine. The event went very, very well. We made a total of $2771 with the Kingdom getting $1385. There were 281 in attendance and was the best attended Crown so far. Thank you to everybody for all your help in making the event a great one. The event site was very clean and they were very happy with us. "It was great to see the Barony helping out" – Gianni

Battlemoor (Aug 27th – Sept 1st): Was held in Villa Leon . The event went great. Congratulations to the newest members of the Order of the Pelican and White Scarf (Mistress Kiara and Don Robert, respectfully). There were several baronial awards given out at Baronial court Saturday night. The fighting was great for both heavies and Rapier. Unfortunately, the barony did lose 8 tents due to windy conditions on site Sunday.

Future Events

Dragonsspine Baronial A&S (Nov 22nd): Will be held in Dragonsspine at Voodoo Leatherworks. Prices will be posted online shortly. A&S judging sheets and documentation pages are available on the baronial website. There was a challenge issued to all Dragonsspine fighters. Please bring your creations, even if it's just for display! The autocrats are still looking for set-up and clean-up crews.

Officer Business:

Exchequer: Congratulations to Abby for stepping up as new Exchequer. The financial report looks good.

Arts and Science: The Royal Outland Inter –Kingdom University (ROIU) is going very well. Please contact ThL Bronwen or Lady Amecia for any ideas for new classes or if you wish to teach a class. If you have any projects that you are working that you care to share with the barony, please email ThL Bronwen.

Knight Marshal: Their Excellencies are still seeking letters of intent for the Knight Marshal position. Please send letters to Herr Sixtus, Lord Gianni and Their Excellencies. Thank you to HE Lothar for stepping up in the mean time. Please contact Herr Sixtus if you would like to donate or help.

Rapier Marshal: Congratulations to Lord Antonio for stepping up as Rapier Marshal. There was great showing at Battlemoor.

Captain of Archery: Practice is going great. Please keep your eyes on the list for practice times and dates once the weather gets colder.

MOL: Crown and Battlemoor went very well. Lord Antonio will need to step down.. Please send all letters of intent to Lord Antonio, Lord Gianni and Their Excellencies.

Chronicler: The September Meiassis Dragon is out. Please visit the website. Thank you for all the letters from the officers. Please speak to Adelaisa about any submissions that you wish to put in the Meiassis Dragon. She will be taking pictures for the newsletter but will need written permission. Please see her about release forms.

Web Minster: All emails are updated. There has been a request for a new Baronial photo to be taken at Dragonsspine A&S.

Herald: The Herald's report is in. If you are still waiting on a response regarding your submission, please see Duchess Selene. There will be official letters going out to the populous once your submission has passed. The first 3 Tuesdays of the month, Her Grace will at the Village Inn near her house. Please keep your eyes on the list for times of availability with Duchess Selene.

Scribe: The scribes office is all caught up ("Not for long…" – HE Broddi) but they can always use scroll blanks. The Kingdom Scribes list is available for sign-up. Please see ThL Aildhicinna for assignments. Please see ThL Aildhicinna for Scribes Guild meetings. Please watch the list for times and places for scribal classes. Please see DragonsSpine39;s Facebook page gallery for newest scroll displays. Please contact ThL Aildhicina if you have any back scrolls that you would like done or for mentoring on scrolls.

Seneschal: Winter Feast bids will be accepted by next business meeting. It's never too early (or too late) to submit a bid for events. Please get you bids in for any events as soon as possible.

Chatelaine: Congratulations to Lady Iullianna for stepping up as Chatelaine.

Gold Key: There were quite a few new people at Battlemoor. They are in desperate need of XL men's tunics and women dresses and tunics. Please see Beseeva regarding any new donations to Gold Key.

Quartermaster: Things are going quite well. Everything is back and undamaged from Crown Tournament. They are looking at new SCA signs and the baronial pavilion will need to have taller poles. Would like some ideas regarding visiting baronial signs. Please see Sir Alric or Lady Cera.

Baron and Baroness: Their Excellencies will be at several events, please keep your eyes on the list. His Excellency is looking at starting up the Brewers Guild, please keep your eyes on the lists for more details. If there are any ideas for events, please submit as soon as possible. Please remember to send in recommendations for awards!

Kingdom Research Panel Findings

Kingdom Research Panel findings letter to the populace

Unto the populace of the Kingdom of The Outlands, greetings from Sir Lavan Longwalker, Kingdom Seneschal.

Over the past six months, the Kingdom Research Panel (KRP) has held meetings with the populace of most all groups in the Outlands in an effort to gain feedback from the populace on potential ways forward for the Kingdom. The specific items discussed were: South becoming a Principality, North becoming a Principality, both becoming Principalities and Keeping the Kingdom as-is. Discussions included: benefits, impacts, travel related concerns, awards and recognition, regional differences and other population concerns.

The two primary goals of forming the KRP were: 1. To create a written document of the discussions and feedback from the populace and 2. To identify a way forward that would benefit the Kingdom. Based upon the information gathered, the KRP has identified a way forward: The Kingdom should remain as-is in its current configuration, but should focus on aspects that will encourage growth within the Northern and Southern regions.

How, you ask? The KRP meetings brought some excellent ideas to light from the populace, and some have already begun. Below is a preliminary list of ideas that could help spur growth:

1. Each Kingdom office should identify Northern and Southern Regional Deputies. This will provide greater opportunities for people willing to take on a deputy role in order to learn the position before stepping into a greater office. This will build the officer corps to provide sustainment of regional offices for further advancement. This will further empower regional deputies to take a leadership role in the region to support special events.

2. Build support for the outlying groups with focus on building their populations. This can be accomplished through hosting regional practices in the groups, creating special events to showcase A&S displays at demos and putting together special events with neighboring kingdoms on our borders.

3. Improve the communication efforts pertaining to special events to make certain proper and timely information goes out to the populace.

4. Work with the Crown and Barons/Baronesses to identify new opportunities to provide recognition in outlying groups.

5. Share ideas and concepts for special events that are working well in Baronies with outlying groups (such as: First Sunday, Folkmoots, etc.).

I'm certain there are additional ideas that the populace has pertaining to promoting growth. Please feel free to share them with the Seneschal's office. The KRP identified a need, we should focus on supporting our smaller groups and helping build their population. But, this also can carry over to the larger groups as well, who sometimes struggle with population issues.

Growth is an ongoing concern for all our groups. Where will we be in the next several years? We cannot remain status quo and just expect things to change for the better. I for one want to still be playing in years to come, and as each of us contemplates our future in the SCA I ask all persons to look at where they want to see this Kingdom in the next 5, 10, 20 years and find a way to make a difference. I will. I hope you will join me.

Thank you.

Lavan Longwalker

Kingdom Seneschal

Dragon Trivia...

Dragon Trivia

by THL Lêofsige Õ Caoimh known as Lyssa

With the SCA's 50th anniversary just around the corner, take a few moments to test your knowledge and celebrate the long history of our society and barony. Come back next month to see the answer to our new question. Here is the answer to last month's question. How did you do? Do you have suggestions for future articles? Please contact Lyssa at leofsige@yahoo.com.

New Question:

Match these Dragonsspine Awards with their blazons.

_____ 1. Dragon's Blood

_____ 2. Dragon's Claw

_____ 3. Dragon's Fire

_____ 4. Dragon's Grace

_____ 5. Gentle Dragon

_____ 6. Guardians of the Golden Flame

_____ 7. Pride of Dragonsspine

_____ 8. Scales of Dragonsspine

A. (Fieldless) A sheaf of arrows Or surmounted by a dragon's scale purpure

B. Or, in pale a wingless dragon dormant purpure and an egg azure

C. Azure, five dragon's scales in annulo, points outward, Or

D. Or, in pale a wingless dragon dormant purpure and a maunche azure

E. Azure, goutty d'Or

F. Purpure, a flame, in annulo five dragon's scales points inward Or

G. Azure, a dragon's gambe bendwise and couped at the thigh Or

H. (Fieldless) A sheaf of three rapiers sable surmounted by a dragon's scale argent

September 2014 Answer:

Note: Prince and Princess and Lord and Lady were during the Principality and Regional eras in Outlands history but technically as part of Atenveldt.

King and Queen -- Gunwaldt and Aelflaed -- June 14, 1986 - November 1, 1986

Prince and Princess -- Gunwaldt and Aislinn -- May 29, 1977

Lord and Lady -- Ton and Elizabeth -- May 26, 1974

Extra Credit if you misunderstood the question and guessed from a purely Outlands perspective: (I didn't think of the confusion when I wrote it. Thanks to Baron Duncan for catching that!)

King and Queen -- Gunwaldt and Aelflaed -- June 14, 1986 - November 1, 1986

Prince and Princess -- Johann and Kathryn -- November 1, 1986 - May 30, 1987

Lord and Lady -- Robert of the Mountains -- June 14, 1986

Trivia: Susan the Midwife was the first Lady made in the shire of Aarquelle in the new kingdom of the Outlands by Their Majesties at Aarquelle's Pennsic Consolation event, August 16, 1986. The item of most note was her assisting in the birth of Her Majesty Aelflaed's first baby just a week earlier. Lady Susan later became Baroness of al-Barran with Lord Needham and eventually both became Peers of the Outlands. Sir Needham has returned to Aarquelle though Mistress Susan has left the Outlands. Count Gunwaldt, Countess Aelflaed, Duke Johann, and Duchess Kathryn are still active in the al-Barran and Citadel areas while Sir Ton and Mistress Elizabeth are right here in Dragonsspine.

Photo by Lady Bree Pye of Caer Galen

Mewcomer's Silver and Gold

Event Steward:

Alexander MacAndrew

Site Fee: Free

Feast Fee: $8 Adult, ages 7-14 $4, 6 and under free

Feast will be limited to the first 100 people.

Site is Dry

Unser Hafen Newcomers Silver & Gold

Make new friends but keep the old one is silver and the other gold

The Barony of Unser Hafen would like to welcome you to Newcomers Silver and Gold, a tour of the SCA for Newcomers and a reunion for Old-timers. The activities of the day are a Peer University, which include discussions of the Arts and Sciences, Martial Arts, Service activities and Royalty of the Society. We also invite you to participate in the medieval village either teaching or learning a new craft or skill. Spin thread, spar with a fighter, attend court and enjoy a wonderful feast. Most of all make new friends and enjoy the company of some old friends.

Schedule of Events

9:00am Site Opens

10:00 Peer University (Come and join us as we discuss and learn about the Arts, Service, Martial Arts and Royalty of the SCA)

10:00 Arts & Sciences

10:30 Service

11:00 Martial Arts

11:30 Royalty in the SCA

12:00 Donation Lunch

12:00 Medieval Village (New folks, come and explore the various aspects of the SCA like archery, equestrian, rapier and armored combat, artisans and craftsman. Seasoned members, bring an art or science to display or share, help teach a martial art, come out to learn something new yourself.)

3:00 Pink Ribbon (practice heavy and rapier) Tourneys for Cancer Survivors

4:30 Court (at the whim of their Excellencies)

5:00 Feast (Court dancing during feast)

8:00 Site Closes

Feast

@ Table ~ breads (rye, sourdough) w/ butters and honey, sausage w/ mustard, cheese and fruit.

App Course ~ Stewed turnips and/or pickled beats, soup, stew or lentil potage, fried beans with bacon.

Main Course ~ Whole roast pig* w/ three sauces, fried root vegetables, cucumber salad w/ pomegranates.

Dessert Course ~ tarts (pear, apple or strawberry), Ginger and anise cookies, cherries stewed in wine.

Directions: Take your best route on I-25 to the US 34 E exit to Greeley. Go East on US 34 E 16.7 miles to 47th Avenue in Greeley. Turn Left/North onto 47th Avenue and go 1 mile to West 20th Street. Turn Right/East onto West 20th Street and go .8 miles. The site will be on your right.

Sonnet #5 William Shakespeare

Those Hours, that with gentle work did frame
The lovely gaze where every eye doth dwell,
Will play the tyrants to the very same
And that unfair which fairly doth excel:
For never-resting Time leads Summer on
To hideous Winter and confounds him there;
Sap check'd with frost and lusty leaves quite gone,
Beauty o'ersnow'd and bareness every where:
Then, were not summer's distillation left,
A liquid prisoner pent in walls of glass,
Beauty's effect with beauty were bereft,
Nor it, nor no remembrance what it was.
But flowers distill'd though they with winter meet
Leese but their show; their substance still lives sweet.

Sonnet #6—William Shakespeare

Then let not Winter's ragged hand deface
In thee thy summer, ere thou be distill'd:
Make sweet some vial; treasure thou some place
With beauty's treasure, ere it be self-kill'd.
That use is not forbidden usury,
Which happies those that pay the willing loan;
That's for thyself to breed another thee,
Or ten times happier, be it ten for one;
Ten times thyself were happier than thou art,
If ten of thine ten times refigur'd thee:
Then what could Death do, if thou shouldst depart,
Leaving thee living in posterity?
Be not self-will'd, for thou art much too fair,
To be Death's conquest and make worms thine heir.

Egil's Saga—Part Five

CHAPTER XXV.

Skallagrim's journey to the king.

Skallagrim made him ready for this journey, choosing out of his household and neighbours the strongest and doughtiest that were to be found. One was Ani, a wealthy landowner, another Grani, a third Grimolf and his brother Grim, house-carles these of Skallagrim, and the two brothers Thorbjorn Krum and Thord Beigaldi. These were called Thororna's sons; she dwelt hard by Skallagrim, and was of magic skill. Beigaldi was a coal-biter. There was a man named Thorir Giant, and his brother Thorgeir Earthlong, Odd Lonedweller, and Griss Freedman. Twelve there were for the journey, all stalwart men, and several of them shape-strong.

They took a rowing-ship of Skallagrim's, went southwards along the coast, stood in to Ostra Firth, then travelled by land up to Vors to the lake there; and, their course lying so that they must cross it, they got a suitable rowing-ship and ferried them over, whence they had not very far to go to the farm where the king was being entertained.

They came there at the time when the king was gone to table. Some men they found to speak with outside in the yard, and asked what was going on. This being told them, Grim begged one to call Aulvir Hnuf to speak with him. The man went into the room and up to where Aulvir sat, and said: 'There be men here outside newly come, twelve together, if men one may call them, for they are liker to giants in stature and semblance than to mortal men.'

Aulvir at once rose and went out, for he knew who they were who had come. He greeted well his kinsman Grim, and bade him go with him into the room.

Grim said to his comrades: "'Tis the custom here that men go weaponless before the king; six of us shall go in, the other six shall bide without and keep our weapons.'

Then they entered, and Aulvir went up to the king, Skallagrim standing at his back. Aulvir was spokesman: 'Here now is come Grim Kveldulf's son; we shall feel thankful to thee, O king, if thou make his journey hither a good one, as we hope it will be. Many get great honour from thee to whom less is due, and who are not nearly so accomplished as is he in every kind of skill. Thou wilt also do this because it is a matter of moment to me, if that is of any worth in thy opinion.'

Aulvir spoke fully and fluently, for he was a man ready of words. And many other friends of Aulvir went before the king and pleaded this cause.

The king looked round, and saw that a man stood at Aulvir's back taller than the others by a head, and bald.

'Is that Skallagrim,' asked the king, 'that tall man?'

Grim said he guessed rightly.

'I will then,' said the king, 'if thou cravest atonement for Thorolf, that thou become my liege-man, and enter my guard here and serve me. Maybe I shall so like thy service that I shall grant thee atonement for thy brother, or other honour not less than I granted him; but thou must know how to keep it better than he did, if I make thee as great a man as was he.'

Skallagrim answered: 'It is well known how far superior to me was Thorolf in every point, and he got no luck by serving thee, O king. Now will I not take that counsel; serve thee I will not, for I know I should get no luck by yielding thee such service as I should wish and as would be worthy. Methinks I should fail herein more than Thorolf.'

The king was silent, and his face became blood-red. Aulvir at once turned away, and bade Grim and his men go out. They did so. They went out, and took their weapons, and Aulvir bade them begone with all haste. He and many with him escorted them to the water-side. Before parting with Skallagrim, Aulvir said:

'Kinsman, thy journey to the king ended otherwise than I would have chosen. I urged much thy coming hither; now, I entreat thee, go home with all speed, and come not in the way of king

Egil's Saga—Part Five...continued

Harold, unless there be better agreement between you than now seems likely, and keep thee well from the king and from his men.'

Then Grim and his company went over the water; but Aulvir with his men, going to the ships drawn up by the water-side, so hacked them about that none was fit to launch. For they saw men coming down from the king's house, a large body well armed and advancing furiously. These men king Harold had sent after them to slay Grim. The king had found words soon after Grim went out, and said:

'This I see in that tall baldhead: that he is brim full of wolfishness, and he will, if he can reach them, work scathe on men whom we should be loth to lose. Ye may be sure, ye against whom he may bear a grudge, that he will spare none, if he get a chance. Wherefore go after him and slay him.'

Upon this they went and came to the water, and saw no ship there fit to launch. So they went back and told the king of their journey, and that Grim and his comrades would now have got clear over the lake.

Skallagrim went his way with his comrades till he reached home; he then told Kveldulf of this journey. Kveldulf showed him well pleased that Skallagrim had not gone to the king on this errand to take service under him; he still said, as before, that from the king they would get only loss and no amends. Kveldulf and Skallagrim spoke often of their plans, and on this they were agreed, that they would not be able to remain in the land any more than other men who were at enmity with the king, but their counsel must be to go abroad. And it seemed to them desirable to seek Iceland, for good reports were given about choice of land there. Already friends and acquaintances of theirs had gone thither—to wit, Ingolf Arnarson, and his companions—and had taken to them land and homestead in Iceland. Men might take land there free of cost, and choose their homestead at will.

So they quite settled to break up their household and go abroad.

Thorir Hroaldson had in his childhood been fostered with Kveldulf, and he and Skallagrim were about of an age, and as foster-brothers were dear friends. Thorir had become a baron of the king's at the time when the events just told happened, but the friendship between him and Skallagrim continued.

Early in the spring Kveldulf and his company made ready their ships. They had plenty of good craft to choose from; they made ready two large ships of burden, and took in each thirty able-bodied men, besides women and children. All the movable goods that they could carry they took with them, but their lands none dared buy, for fear of the king's power. And when they were ready, they sailed away: first to the islands called Solundir, which are many and large, and so scored with bays that few men (it is said) know all their havens.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Of Guttorm.

There was a man named Guttorm, son of Sigurd Hart. He was mother's brother to king Harold; also he had been his foster-father, and ruler over his forces, for the king was a child when he first came to the throne. Guttorm had commanded the army in all battles which Harold had fought to bring the land under his sway. But when Harold became sole king of all Norway, and sat in peace, then he gave to his kinsman Guttorm Westfold and East-Agdir, and Hringariki, and all the land that had belonged to Halfdan Swarthy his father. Guttorm had two sons and two daughters. His sons were named Sigurd and Ragnar; his daughters Ragnhildr and Aslaug.

Guttorm fell sick, and when near his end sent to king Harold, bidding him see to his children and his province. Soon after this he died. On hearing of his death, the king summoned Hallvard Hardfarer and his brother, and told them to go on a message for him eastwards to Vik, he being then at Throndheim. They made great preparations for their journey, choosing them men and the best ship

Egil's Saga—Part Five...continued

they could get; it was the very ship they had taken from Thorgils Yeller. But when they were ready, the king told them their errand: they were to go eastwards to Tunsberg, the market town where Guttorm had resided. 'Ye shall,' said the king, 'bring to me Guttorm's sons, but his daughters shall be fostered there till I bestow them in marriage. I will find men to take charge of the province and foster the maidens.'

So the brothers started with a fair wind, and came in the spring eastwards to Vik and to Tunsberg, and there declared their errand. They took the sons of Guttorm, and much movable property, and went their way back. The wind was then somewhat slack, and their voyage slower, but nothing happened till they sailed northwards over the Sogn-sea, having now a good wind and bright weather, and being in merry mood.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Slaying of Hallvard and Sigtrygg.

All through the summer Kveldulf and Skallagrim kept a look-out shorewards on the highway of vessels. Skallagrim was very sharp-sighted. He saw Hallvard's company sailing by, and he knew the ship, for he had seen it before when Thorgils went with it. Skallagrim watched their course, and where they lay to in haven at eventide. Then he went back to his own people, and told Kveldulf what he had seen, and withal how he had recognised the ship, being that which once was Thorolf's, and was taken by Hallvard from Thorgils, and doubtless there were some men on board who would be worth catching.

So they made them ready with both their boats, and twenty men in each. Kveldulf steered one, Skallagrim the other. Then they rowed and made for the ship. But when they came where it lay, they put in to land.

Hallvard's men had set up the tent over their ship, and laid them down to sleep. But when Kveldulf's force came upon them, then the watchmen who sat at the gangway-end leapt up, and called out to the ship; they bade the men rise, for an enemy was upon them. Hallvard's party leapt to their weapons. But when Kveldulf with his men came to the gangway-end, he went out by the stern gangway, while Skallagrim went forward to the other gangway.

Kveldulf had in his hand a battle-axe; but when he got on board, he bade his men go along the outer way by the gunwale and cut the tent from its forks, while he himself rushed aft to the stern-castle. And it is said that he then had a fit of shape-strength, as had also several of his comrades. They slew all that came in their way, the same did Skallagrim where he boarded the ship; nor did father and son stay hands till the ship was cleared. When Kveldulf came aft to the stern-castle, he brandished high his battle-axe, and smote Hallvard right through helm and head, so that the axe sank in even to the shaft; then he snatched it back towards him so forcibly that he whirled Hallvard aloft, and slung him overboard. Skallagrim cleared the forecastle, slaying Sigtrygg. Many men plunged into the sea; but Skallagrim's men took one of the boats, and rowed after and slew all that were swimming.

There were lost with Hallvard fifty men in all. The ship and the wealth that was in it Skallagrim's men took. Two or three men whom they deemed of least note they seized, and gave them their lives, asking of them who had been in the ship, and what had been the purport of the voyage. After learning all the truth about this, they looked over the slain who lay on ship-board. It was found that more had leapt overboard, and so perished, than had fallen on the ship. The sons of Guttorm had leapt overboard and perished. Of these, one was twelve years old, the other ten, and both were lads of promise.

Then Skallagrim set free the men whose lives he had spared, and bade them go to king Harold and tell him the whole tale of what had been done there, and who had been the doers of it. 'Ye shall also,' said he, 'bear to the king this ditty:

Egil's Saga—Part Five...continued

'For a noble warrior slain
Vengeance now on king is ta'en:
Wolf and eagle tread as prey
Princes born to sovereign sway.
Hallvard's body cloven through
Headlong in the billows flew;
Wounds of wight once swift to fare
Swooping vulture's beak doth tear.'

After this Skallagrim and his men took out to their ships and captured ship and her cargo. And then they made an exchange, loading the ship they had taken, but emptying one of their own which was smaller; and in this they put stones, and bored holes and sank it. Then, as soon as ever the wind was fair, they sailed out to sea.

It is said of shape-strong men, or men with a fit of Berserk fury on them, that while the fit lasted they were so strong that nought could withstand them; but when it passed off, then they were weaker than their wont. Even so it was with Kveldulf. When the shape-strong fit went from him, then he felt exhaustion from the onset he had made, and became so utterly weak that he lay in bed.

And now a fair wind took them out to sea. Kveldulf commanded the ship which they had taken from Hallvard. With the fair wind the ships kept well together, and for long time were in sight of each other.

But when they were now far advanced over the main, Kveldulf's sickness grew worse. And when it came to this, that death was near, then he called to him his shipmates, and told them that he thought it likely they and he would soon take different ways. 'I have never,' he said, 'been an ailing man; but if it so be (as now seems likely) that I die, then make me a coffin, and put me overboard: and it will go far otherwise than I think if I do not come to Iceland and take land there. Ye shall bear my greeting to my son Grim, when ye meet, and tell him withal that if he come to Iceland, and things so turn out that—unlikely as it may seem—I be there first, then he shall choose him a homestead as near as may be to where I have come ashore.'

Shortly after this Kveldulf died.

His shipmates did as he had bidden them do; they laid him in a coffin, and shot it overboard. There was a man named Grim, son of Thorir Kettlesson Keel-fare, of noble kin and wealthy. He was in Kveldulf's ship; he had been an old friend of both father and son, and a companion both of them and of Thorolf, for which reason he had incurred the king's anger. He now took command of the ship after Kveldulf was dead.

But when they were come to Iceland, approaching the land from the south, they sailed westwards along the coast, because they had heard that Ingolf had settled there. But coming over against Reykja-ness, and seeing the firth open before them, they steered both ships into the firth.

And now the wind came on to blow hard, with much rain and mist. Thus the ships were parted.

Grim the Halogalander and his crew sailed in up the Borgar Firth past all the skerries; then they cast anchor till the wind fell and the weather cleared. They waited for the flood-tide, and then took their ship up into a river-mouth; it is called Gufu-river. They drew the ship up this river as far as it could go; then unshipped the cargo, and remained there for the first winter. They explored the land along the sea both inwards and outwards, and they had not gone far before they found Kveldulf's coffin cast up in a creek. They carried the coffin to the ness hard by, set it down there, and raised thereover a pile of stones.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Of Skallagrim's land-taking.

Skallagrim came to land where a large ness ran out into the sea, and above the ness was a narrow isthmus; and there they put out their lading. That ness they called Ship-ness. Then Skallagrim spied out the land: there was much moorland and wide woods, and a broad space between fells and firths, seal-hunting in plenty, and good fishing. But as they spied out the land southwards along the sea, they found before them a large firth; and, turning inwards along this firth, they stayed not their going till they found their companions, Grim the Halogalander and the rest. A joyful meeting was there. They told Skallagrim of his father's death, and how Kveldulf had come to land there, and they had buried him. Then they led Skallagrim to the place, and it seemed to him that thereabouts would be a good spot to build a homestead. He then went away, and back to his shipmates; and for that winter each party remained where they had come to land. Then Skallagrim took land between fells and firths, all the moors out to Seal-loch, and the upper land to Borgarhraun, and southwards to Hafnar-fell, and all that land from the watershed to the sea. Next spring he moved his ship southwards to the firth, and into the creek close to where Kveldulf came to land; and there he set his

Egil's Saga—Part Five...continued

homestead, and called it Borg, and the firth Borgar -firth, and so too the country-side further up they named after the firth.

To Grim the Halogalander he gave dwelling-place south of Borgar-firth, on the shore named Hvann-eyrr. A little beyond this a bay of no great size cuts into the land. There they found many ducks, wherefore they called it Duck-kyle, and the river that fell into the sea there Duck-kyle-river. From this river to the river called Grims-river, the land stretching upwards between them Grim had. That same spring, as Skallagrim had his cattle driven inwards along the sea, they came to a small ness where they caught some swans, so they called it Swan-ness. Skallagrim gave land to his shipmates. The land between Long-river and Hafs-brook he gave to Ani, who dwelt at Anabrekka. His son was Aunund Sjoni. About this was the controversy of Thorstein and Tongue Odd.

Grani dwelt at Granastead on Digraness. To Thorbjorn Krum he gave the land by Gufu-river upward, and to Thord of Beigaldi. Krum dwelt at Krums-hills, but Thord at Beigaldi. To Thorir Giant and his brothers he gave land upwards from Einkunnir and the outer part by Long-river. Thorir Giant dwelt at Giantstead. His daughter was Thordis Staung, who afterwards dwelt at Stangerholt. Thorgeir dwelt at Earthlongstead.

Skallagrim spied out the land upwards all round the country-side. First he went inwards along the Borgar-firth to its head; then followed the west bank of the river, which he called White-river, because he and his companions had never before seen waters that fell out of glaciers, and the colour of the river seemed to them wonderful.

They went up along White-river till a river was before them coming down from the fells to the north; this they called North-river. And they followed it up till yet again before them was a river bringing down but little water. This river they crossed, and still went up along North-river; then they soon saw where the little river fell out of a cleft, and they called it Cleave-river. Then they crossed North-river, and went back to White-river, and followed that upwards. Soon again a river crossed their way, and fell into White-river; this they called Cross-river. They learnt that every river was full of fish. After this they returned to Borg.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Of Skallagrim's industry.

Skallagrim was most industrious. He had about him always many men, whom he set to seek diligently all such provisions as could be got there for man's sustenance, because at first they had but little live-stock compared with the needs of their numerous company. But what live-stock they had went every winter self-feeding in the woods.

Skallagrim was a good shipwright, and westwards of Myrar was no lack of driftwood. He had buildings set up on Swan-ness, and had another house there. This he made a starting-point for sea-fishing, seal-hunting, and egg-gathering; in all these kinds there was plenty of provisions to get, as well as driftwood to bring to him. Whales also often came in there, and whoso would might shoot them. All such creatures were then tame on the hunting-ground, as they were unused to man. His third house he had on the sea in Western Myrar. This was even a better place to look out for driftwood. There, too, he had land sown, and called it Acres. Over against it lay islands, among which whales were found; these they called Whale-islands.

Skallagrim also sent his men up on the salmon-rivers to fish. He set Odd Lonehouse by Cleave-river to see to the salmon-fishing there. Odd dwelt under Lonehouse. Lonehouse-ness has its name from him. Sigmund was the name of the man whom Skallagrim set by North-river; he dwelt at what was then called Sigmundstead, but now Hauga. Sigmundar-ness takes its name from him. He afterwards moved his homestead to Munodar-ness, that being thought more convenient for salmon-fishing.

But as Skallagrim's live-stock multiplied, the cattle used to go up to the fells in the summer. And he found that the cattle that went on the heath were by far better and fatter; also that sheep did well through the winters in the fell-dales without

Egil's Saga—Part Five...continued

being driven down. So Skallagrim set up buildings close to the fell, and had a house there; and there he had his sheep kept. Of this farm Griss was the overlooker, and after him was called Grisartongue. Thus Skallagrim's wealth had many legs to stand on.

Some time after Skallagrim's coming out, a ship put into Borgar-firth from the main, commanded by a man named Oleif Halt. With him were his wife and children and other of his kin, and the aim of his voyage was to get him a home in Iceland. Oleif was a man wealthy, high-born, and fore-seeing. Skallagrim asked Oleif and all his company to his house for lodging. Oleif accepted this, and was with Skallagrim for his first winter in Iceland.

But in the following spring Skallagrim showed him to choice land south of White-river upwards from Grims-river to Flokadale-river. Oleif accepted this, and moved thither his household, and set there his homestead by Warm-brook as it is called. He was a man of renown; his sons were Ragi in Hot-spring-dale, and Thorarin, Ragi's brother, who took the law-speakership next after Hrafn Hængsson. Thorarin dwelt at Warm-brook; he had to wife Thordis, daughter of Olaf Shy, sister of Thord Yeller.

CHAPTER XXX.

Of the coming out of Yngvar, and of Skallagrim's iron-forging.

King Harold Fair-hair took for his own all those lands that Kveldulf and Skallagrim had left behind in Norway, and all their other property that he could lay hands on. He also sought diligently after those men who had been in the counsels or confidence or in any way helpers of Skallagrim and his folk in the deeds which they wrought before Skallagrim went abroad out of the land. And so far stretched the enmity of the king against father and son, that he bore hatred against their kith and kin, or any whom he knew to have been their dear friends. Some suffered punishment from him, many fled away and sought refuge, some within the land, some out of the land altogether. Yngvar Skallagrim's wife's father was one of these men aforesaid. This rede did he take, that he turned all his wealth that he could into movables, then gat him a sea-going ship and a crew thereto, and made ready to go to Iceland, for he had heard that Skallagrim had taken up his abode there, and there would be no lack of choice land there with Skallagrim. So when they were ready and a fair wind blew, he sailed out to sea, and his voyage sped well. He came to Iceland on the south coast, and held on westwards past Reykja-ness, and sailed into Borgar-firth, and entering Long-river went up it even to the Falls. There they put out they ship's lading.

But when Skallagrim heard of Yngvar's coming, he at once went to meet him and bade him to his house with as many men as he would. Yngvar accepted this offer. The ship was drawn up, and Yngvar went to Borg with many men, and stayed that winter with Skallagrim. In the spring Skallagrim offered him choice land. He gave Yngvar the farm which he had on Swan-ness, and land inwards to Mud-brook and outwards to Strome-firth. Thereupon Yngvar went out to this farm and took possession, and he was a most able man and a wealthy. Skallagrim then built a house on Ship-ness, and this he kept for a long time thereafter.

Skallagrim was a good iron-smith, and in winter wrought much in red iron ore. He had a smithy set up some way out from Borg, close by the sea, at a place now called Raufar-ness. The woods he thought were not too far from thence. But since he could find no stone there so hard or smooth as he thought good for hammering iron on (for there are no beach pebbles, the seashore being all fine sand), one evening, when other were gone to sleep, Skallagrim went to the sea, and pushed out an eight -oared boat he had, and rowed out to the Midfirth islands. There he dropped an anchor from the bows of the boat, then stepped overboard, and dived down to the bottom, and brought up a large stone, and lifted it into the boat. Then he himself climbed into the boat and rowed to land, and carried the stone to the smithy and laid it down before the smithy door, and thenceforth he hammered iron on it. That stone lies there yet, and much slag beside it; and the marks of the hammering may be seen on its upper face, and it is a surf-worn boulder, unlike the other stones that are there. Four men nowadays could not lift a larger mass. Skallagrim worked hard at smithying, but his house-carles grumbled thereat, and thought it over early rising. Then Skallagrim composed this stave:

'Who wins wealth by iron
Right early must rise:
Of the sea's breezy brother
Wind-holders need blast.
On furnace-gold glowing
My stout hammer rings,
While heat-feeding bellows
A whistling storm stir.'

Egil's Saga—Part Five..the conclusion

CHAPTER XXXI.

Of Skallagrim's children.

Skallagrim and Bera had a great many children, but at first they all died. Then they had a son, who was sprinkled with water and named Thorolf. As a child he soon grew to be tall and was fair of countenance. It was the talk of all that he would be just such another as Thorolf Kveldulf's son, after whom he was named. Thorolf was far beyond children of his own age in strength. And as he grew to manhood he became doughty in most accomplishments then in vogue among those who were well trained. Thorolf was of a right cheery mood. Early did he come to such full strength as to be deemed fit for warlike service with other men. He was soon a favourite with all, and his father and mother loved him well. Skallagrim and his wife had two daughters; one was named Sæunn, the other Thorunn. They also were of great promise as they grew up. Then Skallagrim and his wife had yet another son. He was sprinkled with water and named, and his name was Egil. But as he grew up it was soon seen that he would be ill-favoured, like his father, with black hair. When but three years old he was as tall and strong as other boys of six or seven. He was soon talkative and word-wise. Somewhat ill to manage was he when at play with other lads.

That spring, Yngvar went to Borg, his errand being to bid Skallagrim to a feast at his house, he also named for the party his daughter Bera and Thorolf her son, and any others that Skallagrim liked to bring. Skallagrim promised to come. Yngvar then went home, prepared for the banquet, and had ale brewed. But when the set time came that Skallagrim and Bera should go to the feast, Thorolf made him ready to go with them, as also some house-carles, so that they were fifteen in all. Egil told his father that he wished to go.
'I am,' said he, 'as much akin to Yngvar as is Thorolf.'
'You shall not go,' said Skallagrim, 'for you know not how to behave yourself in company where there is much drinking, you who are not good to deal with though you be sober.'

Then Skallagrim mounted his horse and rode away, but Egil was ill content with his lot.

He went out of the yard, and found a draught horse of Skallagrim's, got on its back and rode after Skallagrim's party. No easy way had he over the moor, for he did not know the road; but he kept his eyes on the riders before him when copse or wood were not in the way. And this is to tell of his journey, that late in the evening he came to Swanness, when men sat there a-drinking. He went into the room, but when Yngvar saw Egil he received him joyfully, and asked why he had come so late. Egil told of his words with Skallagrim. Yngvar made Egil sit by him, they two sat opposite Skallagrim and Thorolf. For merriment over their ale they fell to reciting staves. Then Egil recited a stave:

'Hasting I came to the hearth fire
Of Yngvar, right fain so to find him,
Him who on heroes bestoweth
Gold that the heather-worm guardeth.
Thou, of the snake's shining treasure
Always a generous giver,
Wilt not than me of three winters
Doughtier song-smith discover.'

Yngvar praised this stave, and thanked Egil much therefor, but on the morrow he brought to Egil as reward for the poem three sea-snail shells and a duck's egg. And next day at the drinking Egil recited another stave about his poem's reward:

'The wielder of keen-biting wound-fowl
Gave unto Egil the talker
Three silent dogs of the surf-swell,
Meet for the praise in his poem.
He, the skilled guide of the sea-horse,
Knowing to please with a present,
Gave as fourth gift to young Egil
Round egg, the brook-bird's bed-bolster.'

Egil's Saga—Part Five..the conclusion

Egil's poetry won him thanks from many men. No more tidings were there of that journey. Egil went home with Skallagrim.

CHAPTER XXXII.

Of lord Brynjolf and Bjorn, his son.

There was in Sogn a lord named Bjorn, a rich man; he dwelt at Aurland. His son was Brynjolf, who was sole heir to all his father's wealth. Brynjolf's sons were Bjorn and Thord. They were young when what has been just told happened. Bjorn was a great traveller, sometimes on free-booting, sometimes on trading voyages. He was a right doughty man. It so chanced that one summer Bjorn was present at a banquet attended by many. He saw there a fair maiden who pleased him well. He asked of what family she was, and was told that she was sister of lord Thorir Hroaldsson, and was named Thora, with the by-name Lacehand. Bjorn made his suit and asked Thora to wife. But Thorir refused his offer, and with this they parted. But that same autumn Bjorn took men and went with a cutter well equipt northwards to the Firths, and came to Thorir's when he was not at home. Bjorn took Thora away thence, and home with him to Aurland. They two were there for the winter, and Bjorn would fain hold a wedding with her. Brynjolf his father ill liked what Bjorn had done; he thought there was dishonour therein, whereas there had been ere this long friendship between Thorir and Brynjolf.

'So far,' said he, 'Bjorn, from your holding a wedding with Thora here in my house without the leave of her brother, she shall be here as well respected as if she were my daughter and your sister.' And all had to be as Brynjolf ordered in his household, whether Bjorn liked it well or ill. Brynjolf sent men to Thorir to offer him atonement and redress for what Bjorn had done. Thorir bade Brynjolf send Thora home; no atonement could there be else. But Bjorn would in no wise let her go away, though Brynjolf begged it. And so the winter wore on.

But when spring came, then Brynjolf and Bjorn were talking one day of their matters. Brynjolf asked what Bjorn meant to do. Bjorn said 'twas likeliest that he should go away out of the land. 'Most to my mind is it,' said he, 'that you should give me a long-ship and crew therewith, and I go a free-booting.'

'No hope is there of this,' said Brynjolf, 'that I shall put in your hands a warship and strong force, for I know not but you will go about just what is against my wish; why even now already I have enough trouble from you. A merchant-ship I will give you, and wares withal: go you then southwards to Dublin. That voyage is now most highly spoken of. I will get you a good crew.'

Bjorn said he would take this as his father willed. So he had a good merchant-ship made ready, and got men for it. Bjorn now made him ready for this voyage, but was some time about it. But when he was quite ready and a fair wind blew, he embarked on a boat with twelve men and rowed in to Aurland, and they went up to the homestead and to his mother's bower. She was sitting therein with many women. Thora was there. Bjorn said Thora must go with him, and they led her away. But his mother bade the women not dare to let them know this within in the hall: Brynjolf, she said, would be in a sad way if he knew it, and this would bring about great mischief between father and son. But Thora's clothes and trinkets were all laid there ready to hand, and Bjorn and his men took all with them.

Then they went that night out to their ship, at once hoisted their sail, and sailed out by the Sogn-sea, and so to the main. They had an ill wind, before which they must needs run, and were long tossed about on the main, because they were bent on shunning Norway at all hazards. And so it was that one day they were sailing off the east coast of Shetland during a gale, and brake their ship in making land at Moss-ey. They got out the cargo, and went into the town that was there, carrying thither all their wares, and they drew up their ship and repaired damages.

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